

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06448 01 OF 02 240945Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 HA-05 AID-05 /095 W
-----009962 241003Z /10

P R 240900Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6242
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 305
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 6448

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION DEC. 16-22

REF: BEIRUT 6298 (DTG 160930Z DEC 77)

1. SUMMARY: LEBANESE GOVERNMENT LEADERS HAVE NOT
COMMENTED PUBLICLY ON PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S REPORTED
PROPOSALS FOR A MID-EAST SETTLEMENT, PHALANGE LEADER
PIERRE GEMAYEL WARNED THAT A CONTINUED PALESTINIAN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 06448 01 OF 02 240945Z

PRESENCE IN LEBANON WOULD LEAD TO PARTITION. BACHIR
GEMAYEL RETURNED TO LEBANON AFTER A 28-DAY TOUR OF THE
U.S. AND CANADA. SHELLING CONTINUED IN SOUTH LEBANON.
THE EGYPTIAN CHARGE DEMANDED MORE PROTECTION FOR HIS
PERSONNEL IN THE WAKE OF SEVERAL ABORTIVE ATTACKS
AGAINST THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY. RIVAL PALESTINIAN
COMMANDO ORGANIZATIONS CLASHED IN SABRA REFUGEE CAMP.

SOUTH YEMEN DECIDED TO WITHDRAW ITS APPROXIMATELY 250 TROOPS FROM THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE (ADF). THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ALLOCATED LL 120 MILLION FOR MILITARY PURCHASES. END SUMMARY.

2. GOL REFRAINS FROM COMMENT ON BEGIN'S PLAN.

LEBANESE GOVERNMENT LEADERS HAVE NOT COMMENTED PUBLICLY ON PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S REPORTED PROPOSALS FOR A MID-EAST SETTLEMENT. ACCORDING TO A RESPECTED LOCAL NEWS DIGEST, THE MIDDLE EAST REPORTER, "SOME LEBANESE LEADERS, ESPECIALLY AMONG RIGHTWING CHIEFS," WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THE PROPOSALS, BECAUSE THEY "MADE NO ALLOWANCE FOR THE REPATRIATION OF PALESTINIANS LIVING IN HOST ARAB STATES."

3. GEMAYEL SEES THREAT OF PARTITION.

A. PIERRE GEMAYEL, IN ONE OF HIS MOST PESSIMISTIC STATEMENTS SINCE THE END OF THE 1975-76 FIGHTING, SAID ON DECEMBER 20 THAT THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF ARMED PALESTINIANS WOULD LEAD TO PARTITION, ACCORDING TO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IKE. GEMAYEL EXPLAINED THAT, "IT WOULD BE FAR BETTER TO ACCEPT THIS REALITY IN THE HOPE THAT IT WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO NATURAL AND PERMANENT UNITY THAN TO DELUDE OURSELVES AND FORGE A FALSE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 06448 01 OF 02 240945Z

UNITY WHICH CANNOT BUT LEAD TO FINAL DIVISION."

B. IN ANOTHER STATEMENT ISSUED THE SAME DAY AFTER A MEETING OF THE PHALANGE PARTY POLITBURO, GEMAYEL WARNED, "THE LEBANESE CITIZEN MAY SOON FIND HIMSELF A STRANGER IN HIS OWN COUNTRY, OUTNUMBERED BY NATURALIZED ALIENS WHO HAVE NO LOYALTY TO LEBANON."

C. ON DECEMBER 21, GEMAYEL DECLARED THAT "ADMINISTRATIVE DECENTRALIZATION" OR "SOME KIND OF FEDERALISM" MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO THE PRESENT SITUATION "WHERE THERE ARE TWO PEOPLES AND TWO LANDS."

4. BACHIR GEMAYEL RETURNS.

LEBANESE FRONT MILITARY LEADER BACHIR GEMAYEL RETURNED TO LEBANON ON DECEMBER 21 AFTER A 28-DAY TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. HE TOLD REPORTERS IN BEIRUT ON DECEMBER 22 THAT THERE WAS NOW A "NEW PHASE" OF LEBANESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS, BECAUSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NOW UNDERSTOOD THE LEBANESE CAUSE.

5. MORE FIGHTING IN SOUTH.

RADIO JERUSALEM, IN WHAT IT CALLED THE HEAVIEST FIGHTING IN THE PAST MONTH, SAID THAT ON DECEMBER 17 RIGHTISTS AND PALESTINIANS IN THE MARJAYOUN-KHIAM AREAS HAD EXCHANGED ARTILLERY AND ROCKET FIRE. ON DECEMBER 15, ACCORDING TO PRESS AND OTHER SOURCES, AN ISRAELI PATROL NEAR YIFTAH RECEIVED SMALL ARMS AND BAZOOKA FIRE FROM SOUTH LEBANON. THE PATROL RETURNED THE FIRE BUT SUFFERED NO CASUALTIES. THIS WAS THE SECOND CROSS-BORDER INCIDENT IN THE SAME AREA WITHIN FIVE DAYS (SEE DECEMBER 15 SITREP).

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06448 02 OF 02 241000Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 HA-05 AID-05 /095 W
-----010021 241002Z /10

P R 240900Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6243
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 306
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 6448

6. EGYPTIAN CHARGE DEMANDS MORE PROTECTION.

A. THE EGYPTIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRS CALLED ON PRESIDENT SARKIS DECEMBER 21 AND DEMANDED MORE PROTECTION FOR HIS MISSION AFTER SEVERAL INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE EGYPTIAN

EMBASSY AND OTHER EGYPTIAN INSTITUTIONS IN BEIRUT.
THE FOLLOWING DAY, MOST EGYPTIAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL
LEFT BEIRUT FOR CAIRO, ACCORDING TO PRESS AND LEBANESE
FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 06448 02 OF 02 241000Z

-- LAST MONTH THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY WAS HIT BY A ROCKET,
AND A BOMB DAMAGED THE OFFICES OF EGYPT AIR (SEE
NOVEMBER 24 SITREP);

-- ON DECEMBER 18 A SMALL EXPLOSIVE CHARGE WENT OFF
HARMLESSLY OUTSIDE THE OFFICES OF THE BANK OF EGYPT AND
EGYPTIAN AIRLINES, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES;

-- ON DECEMBER 20, THE ADF DEFUSED: (A) A 6.5 KG
EXPLOSIVE CHARGE PLACED AT THE SOUTHEASTERN CORNER OF
THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY BUILDING; (B) "A ROCKET FIXED ON A
VEGETABLE CART, AIMED AT THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY AND SET TO
BE FIRED AUTOMATICALLY," AND A "SMALL CHARGE" AT THE
ENTRANCE TO THE OFFICES OF EGYPT AIR, ACCORDING TO AN
ADF COMMUNIQUE;

-- ON DECEMBER 21, SECURITY FORCES FIRED ON "TWO
UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS" WHO ATTEMPTED TO APPROACH THE
EMBASSY, BUT WHO FLED, "LEAVING BEHIND TWO ROCKETS
READY TO BE LAUNCHED" WHICH THE ADF DEFUSED, ACCORDING
TO ANOTHER ADF COMMUNIQUE.

-- ON DECEMBER 22, A SMALL CHARGE WENT OFF IN THE
EGYPTIAN-LEBANESE BANK NEAR THE PLACE DES CANONS IN DOWN-
TOWN BEIRUT, BUT THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES, ACCORDING
TO EMBASSY SOURCES.

B. EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS AND SOME LEBANESE HERE PRIVATELY
ACCUSE THE SYRIANS OF BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
ABOVE INCIDENTS.

7. PALESTINIANS CLASH IN SABRA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 06448 02 OF 02 241000Z

TWO RIVAL PALESTINIAN COMMANDO ORGANIZATIONS - THE
PFLP/GC AND THE FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE -
EXCHANGED SMALL ARMS AND MACHINE GUN FIRE FOR ABOUT ONE
HOUR FROM ABOUT 1900 TO 2000 HOURS ON DECEMBER 16 IN

BEIRUT'S SABRA REFUGEE CAMP. ADF TANKS RESTORED ORDER BY FIRING ON THE FIGHTERS FROM OUTSIDE THE CAMP. THIS INCIDENT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF A SERIES OF SMALL CLASHES BETWEEN RIVAL PALESTINIAN GROUPS IN SABRA CAMP OVER THE LAST SEVEN DAYS.

8. SOUTH YEMEN AND PERHAPS SUDAN TO WITHDRAW FROM ADF.

SOUTH YEMEN HAS DECIDED TO WITHDRAW ITS APPROXIMATELY 250 TROOPS FROM THE 30,000 MAN ARAB DETERRENT FORCE, ACCORDING TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY PRIME MINISTER SALIM AL HOSS ON DECEMBER 17. THE ADF CONSISTS OF PRE-DOMINANTLY SYRIAN TROOPS IN ADDITION TO UNITS FROM SOUTH YEMEN, SUDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

9. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ALLOCATES MONEY FOR MILITARY AND PROMOTES DIPLOMATS.

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT ITS WEEKLY MEETING ON DECEMBER 19 ALLOCATED LL 120 MILLION FOR MILITARY PURCHASES, BUT RELEASED NO DETAILS OF THE PURCHASES. THE COUNCIL ALSO PROMOTED 21 COUNSELLORS IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE TO THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, INCLUDING PRESIDENTIAL PROTOCOL CHIEF KHALIL HADDAD AND FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTOCOL CHIEF ABBAS HAMIEH.
PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT06448
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770481-0147
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771219/aaaaapdd.tel
Line Count: 250
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8d700efd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BEIRUT 6298
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 132538
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION DEC. 16-22
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8d700efd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009